



NJ National Guard Child & Youth Program News

State Family Programs Office
Joint Military & Family Assistance Center
August, 2015

If you would like to receive the newsletter and other useful emails directly, please provide your email address to Amanda Balas and she will gladly add it to the Child & Youth distribution list.

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THANK YOU to those who made Youth Camp 2015 a great week for all our Campers!!!!

2015 marked our 21st annual summer Youth Camp at the NG Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ. This year we had 186 youth between the ages of 9-17 attend a jammed packed, week long Camp. All Campers were able to experience our round robin activities as planned every year but everyone also took part in the new programs like The Brain Show, Selfie Portraits and our first ever Live Concert. There were many smiles seen throughout the week by people of all ages.

On Friday night, we held our annual Awards Ceremony. Each Company was awarded ribbons that they earned as a whole, but we also presented over 100 awards to Campers, Counselors in Training and Counselors!!! This year we had a new award that was presented to 1 male and 1 female camper in each company called the MVP Award. The 12 youth that received this award were honored for being kind, friendly, helpful, considerate, clean and cooperative throughout the week.
CONGRATS to all that received Awards!!!!

We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who give so much of themselves and expect so very little in return!!!!!!!

Pictures from the week-long event can be found after 7 August at

www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram

and

www.Flickr.com/photos/NJDMAVA/sets



Find us on
Facebook

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!!

www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram

**UPDATE as of 1 August 2015**

HISTORY-- The Department of Defense is committed to helping military families meet their needs, and contracted with Sittercity through the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. This funding, which expanded service members' resources during high deployment, has expired. Military Community and Family Policy leaders are pleased to have been able to provide no-cost membership and to work with Sittercity to ensure smooth transition.

Here's what you need to know about the Sittercity contract expiration:

****Beginning 1 Aug 15, military families will begin to pay for Sittercity's premium service but fees will be discounted**

****Existing accounts will move from <https://www.sittercity.com/dod> to <https://www.sittercity.com>**

****Military OneSource specialty consultants work with military families one-on-one, online or by phone to help meet their needs. Call 1-800-342-9647 to contact a consultant at no charge.**

For additional information, please visit Military OneSource "Frequently Asked Questions on Specialty Consultation" at http://www.militaryonesource.mil/footer?content_id=268391

Family Member Satisfaction Survey

As part of the contract under which the National Guard Child and Youth Program operates, we have been asked to survey Families who have utilized Child and Youth Program resources and services from the period of 1 June 2014 to present. The purpose of this survey is to gather valuable information related to current strengths of the program as well as areas where continued development could be targeted for improvement. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure the state/territory Child and Youth Program is adequately meeting the needs of our military-connected population.

We invite you to take a few minutes (10-15) to complete the Family Member Satisfaction Survey online. You may do this by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015CYSSFamilysurvey>

Information gathered from this survey is completely anonymous and will only be used to improve services provided by the Child and Youth Program at the state/territory and national levels. If you are unable to complete the survey online, a PDF version has been attached to this email for you. Please mail or email the PDF version of the survey to ATTN: Ms. Erin Berry, Eastern Region Assistant Program Manager, 434 Chase Road, Columbus, OH 43214 or erin.berry@cog-ps.com

Deadline for completion and submission of Family Member Satisfaction Surveys is Monday 10 August 2015. Should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this email, please feel free to contact Amanda Balas, Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator for further information. THANK YOU for completing the survey!!!!

Upcoming Child & Youth Program events

Please mark your calendars to attend these upcoming programs:

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2015

4-H Cloverbud Night at Lawrenceville Armory from 6:30-8:00pm

Do you have military youth ages 5-10?? Are they interested in joining a 4-H Club??

If so, then this is your time to come out and check it out!!!! During this event, we will offer insight into the NJ 4-H Cloverbud program through presentations, displays and hands-on workshops. This event is for military families with youth ages 5-10. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Amanda Balas. RSVP no later than Monday 10 August

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2015

Military Family Mom & Daughter Night Out at JMFAC in Bordentown from 6:30-8:30pm

Are you a military family?? Could Mom and Daughter(s) use a night out by themselves??

If so, then this is a night out for you. Mothers and daughters are welcomed to attend this stress free, bonding time together to enjoy massages, projects, smoothies and time relaxing. This event is open to the first 25 military families that sign up. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Amanda Balas no later than 13 August

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2015

NG Youth Day Trip to Crayola Factory

This event is open to 40 NG dependents ages 5-11 years old and 6 teens ages 14-17. More details to follow for this day trip with transportation provided.

SEPTEMBER

Guard Teen Panel meetings & events

Are you a National Guard teen?? If yes, please stay posted as we will be holding a meeting and teen event in September. Please pencil in the weekend of 19-20 September to attend a meeting/event.

TUESDAY NIGHTS 22 SEPTEMBER – 17 NOVEMBER

Military 4-H Clubs at JMFAC in Bordentown from 6:30-8:00pm for youth ages 6-18

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2015 (rain or shine)

5k family oriented walk/run in Sea Girt, NJ in partnership with APTANJ.

Red, White & Blues Wide Picnic at Joint Base Wednesday 5 August 2015



Our formerly known FAMILY FUN FEST event will be held on 5 August 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the John F. Mann Park at Dix. At this event we will provide information of services and programs available to our military community in a fun environment. There will fun activities for all to include a petting zoo, bouncing houses, face painting, a climbing wall, static displays, etc. Southern-style barbecue will be served from 12:00 pm to 2:00p.m. The Billy Walton Band will be perform for the enjoyment of the total community.

Operation Hugs



Pregnant or Have a Newborn?

If you answered yes and are a military family, you are eligible to receive a free baby bundle package through Operation Hugs. The baby bundle includes a variety of educational resources for new parents, parenting guides, books, and other goodies! But most importantly, you will receive a handmade baby blanket made especially for military families by a local Quilters Guild.

If you would like to receive an "Operation Hugs package" please contact your Family Assistance Center Coordinator or download the form at <http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth/operationhugs.html>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- National Guard Joint Services Support: <https://www.jointservicessupport.org>
- Guides to Supporting Students from Military Families
<http://www.tcpress.com/militaryfamiliesoffer.html>
- Military OneSource Children, Youth & Teens - <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/cyt>
- Discussion of tough topics & helping children cope: <https://militarykidsconnect.org/parents>
- Free SAT/ACT test prep programs:
http://www.eknowledge.com/affiliate_welcome.asp?coupon=2941CE7118
- Student Online Achievement Resources designed for military families:
<http://www.soarathome.com/>
- Military Child Education Coalition: <http://www.militarychild.org>

BACK TO SCHOOL

We know it is hard to believe but Back to School time is right around the corner. In less than 6 weeks, summer will be history and our youth will be back in school working hard. Please know that Nicole and I are here to help military families during times of transition. If you have a first time student or a tween transitioning from middle school to high school and need resources or supplies, we may be able to help. If you are currently experiencing a deployment or moving to a new school, Nicole and I have resources to help not only you, the military family, but also tools to help educators and school officials.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We may be able to help or at the least, point you in the right direction.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!!! Remember, we are here to help military families ☺
